U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625-1129

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0069-EA

CASEFILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER: 0501259/04018

PROJECT NAME: Construction of a small livestock handling corral on the West Squaw Mountain Allotment #04018.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: See Location Map, Attachment #1a

Corral location - T12N R88W Sec. 27 SE¼ NW¼

APPLICANT: Grazing lessee

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action and Alternatives are subject to the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

Results: The Proposed Action is consistent with the Little Snake Resource Management Plan, Record of Decision, Livestock Grazing Management objective to improve range conditions for both wildlife and livestock through proper utilization of key forage plants and adjusting livestock stocking rates as a result of vegetation studies.

The Proposed Action is located within Management Unit 3, Little Snake River. The Proposed Action is compatible with the management objective for this unit, which is to improve soil and watershed values, increase forage production, and enhance livestock grazing. The Proposed Action would not conflict with this objective.

NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION: The authorized representative for the lessee has requested construction of this small corral on public lands to facilitate safe handling of yearling cattle grazing on the allotment.

The following Environmental Assessment will analyze the impacts of construction of this facility

on public land managed by the BLM. The Proposed Action will be assessed for meeting land health standards. Additionally, the Proposed Action would comply with the requirements listed in 43 CFR Ch. II 4120.3.

PUBLIC SCOPING PROCESS: This project is posted on the 2010 NEPA log on the Little Snake Field Office web site.

BACKGROUND: The grazing lease on this allotment has been held by the lessee since 1990. The current lease authorizes yearling cattle to graze the allotment. The terrain and brushy vegetation make remote management of livestock somewhat difficult. In order to more safely manage livestock health (vaccinations, routine examinations and treatments) and facilitate handling of the livestock the lessee is constructing multiple facilities throughout this and their adjacent allotments (#04021 South Yahoo Mtn. and North Yahoo Mtn. #04019). All other facilities are strategically located on associated base property owned by the Stull's. The corral included in the Proposed Action would be the only facility located on BLM land. This location provides the most fluid movement of cattle between pastures and within the grazing rotation. The facility would be used intermittently throughout the permitted use grazing season.

The proposed corral location is within the West Squaw Mountain Allotment #04018 east of Slater, CO near the Wyoming and Colorado border. It is situated along the Cantling Creek draw above the two track road traveling through the allotment. Elevation at this site is approximately 7,000 feet. Vegetation consists primarily of sagebrush and perennial grasses.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action

Construct a small corral for livestock handling along Cantling Creek in the West Squaw Mountain Allotment #04018. Location would be east of the gate crossing the two-track along the 3 wire pasture fenceline (shown on Attachment #1a). The corral would be located as close to the two track road as is feasible. The proposed facility would be approximately 28 feet by 32 feet in dimension (0.021 acres). Materials used would include wood posts on 8 foot centers, welded mesh panels and a top rail wooden pole. Metal swinging gates would be used at the entrance and in the head catch area. Corral design plan is shown on Attachment #1b. Lessee would provide labor and materials for construction as well as future maintenance. A Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement (Form 4120-6) would be signed prior to construction. Construction would occur May – July 2010.

Use of this facility would be intermittent. Livestock would be held in the area for a minimal length of time, typically 2 days or less. They would be processed through the corral when moving between pastures. During this time livestock would be vaccinated and general health evaluation and treatments would occur as needed. The current grazing lease is held by the applicant authorizing 61 yearling cattle to graze the allotment from June 15 through September 26 utilizing a two pasture grazing rotation.

Standard Discovery Stipulation: If fossils are discovered during construction or other operations, all activity in the area will cease and the Field Office Manager will be notified immediately. An assessment of significance will be made within an agreed timeframe. Operations will resume only upon written notification by the Authorized Officer.

No Action
The proposed facility would not be constructed.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES/MITIGATION MEASURES

CRITICAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The allotment does not lie within any special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Vehicular access on the existing road for construction and maintenance of the corral and any associated livestock management activities would result in minimal releases of particulate matter (dust) emissions, but this would be minor and short-term and would not affect the overall air quality of the area.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: This alternative would have no further affect on air quality.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/8/10

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Not Applicable

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gina Robison, 3/29/10

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Cultural resources, in this region of Colorado, range from late Paleo-Indian to Historic. For a general understanding of the cultural resources in this area of Colorado, see ***An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Little Snake Resource Area,***

Northwestern Colorado, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, ***An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado***, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and ***Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin,*** Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The proposed project, Livestock Corral on West Squaw mountain, has undergone a Class III cultural resource survey:

Survey ID:	RT.LM.NR92
Title:	INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF BLM LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE, WEST SQUAW MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT #4018 FENCE AND STOCK PONDS, ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO (BLM 82.1.01) ADDENDUM: REPORT ON CLASS I LITERATURE SEARCH FOR REDESIGN OF PORTION OF FENCE LINE, BLM ALLOTMENT #4018 (BLM #10-12-01)
Author:	BRECHTEL, JAMES M. AND KEESLING, HENRY S.
Date:	01/03/2001
Contractor:	JAMES ENTERPRISES INC. FOR THE BLM LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFFICE

The survey identified no cultural resources eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Consequently, the Proposed Action would have no affect to cultural resources. The proposed project may proceed as described with the following mitigative measures in place.

The following standard stipulations apply for this project:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

    - Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
    - The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
    - Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the

discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

2. If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation costs. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: There would be no affect to cultural resources under this alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 4/7/10

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located in an area of isolated dwellings. Oil, gas, and ranching are the primary economic activities.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The project area is relatively isolated from population centers, so no populations would be affected by physical or socioeconomic impacts of either alternative. Neither alternative would directly affect the social, cultural or economic well-being and health of Native American, minority or low-income populations.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Louise McMinn, 3/30/10

FLOODPLAINS

Affected Environment: There are no floodplains present on public lands within the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/5/10

INVASIVE, NONNATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Invasive and noxious weeds occur within the project area. Invasive species of concern in the vicinity would include cheatgrass, alyssum, white top, Canada thistle, scotch thistle, and other biennial thistles. These species are less likely to establish in undisturbed upland sites. Weed infestation can occur from introduction by vehicles, animals, or wind carrying seed in from other areas. The BLM LSFO cooperates with Moffat County's Cooperative Weed Management program to control weeds on public lands. Principals of Integrated Pest Management are employed to control noxious weeds on public lands.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would provide a potential area of disturbance for weed infestations. The intermittent use and limited time in the location minimizes the opportunity for an infestation to establish. Sources of infestation by moving cattle through the corral are possible, however the lack of a current noxious weed infestation on site would minimize the potential for establishment of noxious weeds. The likely outcome of a disturbance as described in the proposed action would be an increase in weedy species directly within the corral area. Little effect would be seen outside the proposed area of the corral.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no change in the presence or status of invasive or noxious weeds.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Christina Rhyne, 3/25/10

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Vegetation at the project site consists of sagebrush and mixed mountain shrub communities. These ecosystems typically provide nesting habitat for a large array of migratory birds during the breeding season. Priority species on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern List that may nest in the general area include: sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow and sage thrasher. There are no known raptor nests in the vicinity of the proposed corral.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The Proposed Action has a low potential to result in the 'take' of any migratory bird. Nesting attempts may be disrupted and some nests may be accidentally destroyed if the corral was constructed during the breeding season (May – July). The Proposed Action would remove 0.021 acres of migratory bird habitat. This disturbance would be minor and is unlikely to have any influence on migratory bird populations at a landscape level.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to migratory birds from this alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 4/12/10

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

A letter was sent to the Eastern Shoshone, Uinta and Ouray Tribal Council, Southern Ute Tribal Council, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council on May 26, 2009. The letter listed the FY2010 projects that the BLM would notify them on and projects that would not require notification. A followup phone call was performed on July 26, 2009. No comments were received (Letter on file at the Little Snake Field Office). This project requires no additional notification.

Name of specialist and date: Robyn Watkins Morris, 4/7/10

PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Affected Environment: Not present.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Christina Rhyne, 3/24/10

T&E AND SENSITIVE ANIMALS

Affected Environment: The general area of the proposed corral site provides habitat for greater sage-grouse, a BLM sensitive species and a candidate for ESA listing. The closest sage-grouse lek is approximately 3 miles away from the proposed corral site. There would be some potential for sage-grouse to utilize the general area for nesting.

Habitat for one additional BLM sensitive species, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse occurs in the project area. Sharp-tailed grouse utilize the area during the winter and during the spring for nesting. The closest lek is approximately 1 mile away.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: The livestock corral would alter 0.021 acres of habitat for both grouse species. This disturbance would be minimal on a landscape level, but may degrade habitat on a small scale. Indirectly, habitat effectiveness adjacent to the corral would be reduced as a result of noise and human activity during construction and sorting activities. The proposed corral is far enough away from sharp-tailed grouse and sage-grouse lek sites that construction and use of the facility would be unlikely to disrupt lekking activities.

Fences and other structures have potential to result in mortality of individual sage grouse as a result of collisions. The corral would be built with mesh panels and a top rail. This type of

structure should have high visibility to grouse and would pose a low risk for collisions. The distance from the corral to the closest lek also lowers collision risks. The corral would provide additional perching structures for raptors. This may lead to isolated predation on individual grouse. Overall, the proposed corral would have minimal impacts to grouse and their habitat.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to either grouse species from this alternative.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 4/13/10

T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS

Affected Environment: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within, or in the vicinity of, the proposed project.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim, 3/30/10

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no hazardous wastes present at the site or within the allotment.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Potential releases of hazardous materials could occur due to vehicular access during construction of the facility or for livestock management operations. Coolant, oil, and fuel are materials that could potentially be released. Due to the limited amount of vehicular activity that would be required, the potential for releases of any of these materials is low and if a release were to occur, it would be minimal and highly localized and not result in an adverse impact to the allotment.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Christina Rhyne, 3/24/10

WATER QUALITY - GROUND

Affected Environment: The proposed project has a very low surface affect.

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Marty O'Mara, 3/30/10

WATER QUALITY - SURFACE

Affected Environment: The proposed corral location is approximately 100 meters east of Cantling Creek, a tributary to the Little Snake River, and adjacent to a two track that bisects the pasture. Water quality for all tributaries to the Little Snake River in this area (from the Little Snake's first crossing of the Colorado/Wyoming border to a point immediately below the confluence with Fourmile Creek) must support Aquatic Life Cold 1, Recreation P, and Agriculture classifications. There are no water-quality based designations in this area. While there are no impairments to water quality identified in the area, as of 2008 all tributaries to the Little Snake River are on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Monitoring and Evaluation List for a suspected water quality problem regarding *E. coli* and iron (CDPHE 2008).

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Based on a 1999 assessment of Cantling Creek (reach 1) there is diverse and vigorous (but not always adequate) riparian vegetation along this reach. Upland vegetation on the allotment, including the grass component, is described as abundant and diverse. Cattle would be held in the corral for no more than two days a year during pasture rotations in the summer or early fall, thus there is little concern that concentrated animal use for such a short time would cause extensive bare ground that could facilitate movement of sediment or fecal matter towards the creek. Building the corral a distance of at least 100 meters from the creek as planned, in addition to the short duration of livestock confinement in the corral and the relatively good condition of upland and riparian vegetation between the site and the creek, would minimize any surface runoff that may occur. The concentration of animals as described would not affect iron or *E. coli* water quality issues.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: This alternative would have no further affect on water quality.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/5/10

Reference: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Water Quality Control Commission. 2008. Regulations #33, 37, 93 and 94. http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/wqccregs/index.html

WETLANDS/RIPARIAN ZONES

Affected Environment: The proposed corral location is approximately 100 meters east of Cantling Creek, reach 1. This reach was found to be "functioning at risk" with an upward/improving trend in the most recent 1999 assessment. Evidence of livestock use was noted; however, upland uses were not causing any riparian degradation. There are no wetlands

identified within the project area.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: There would be little to no impact to the Cantling Creek riparian area during the building, use and maintenance of the corral, as the small corral would be outside of the immediate riparian area and the existing two-track would be used to access the site. The distance from the creek to the corral would act as a buffer for any moving sediment but the affect would be minimal.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: This alternative would have no affect on riparian areas.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/8/10

WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Not Applicable

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gina Robison, 3/29/10

WSAs, WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Affected Environment: Not Present

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: Not Applicable

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Gina Robison, 3/29/10

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The geologic formation at the surface is the Cretaceous age Lewis Shale Formation (Kls) . This formation is a dark-gray homogenous marine shale. Thickness is estimated at 1,500-1,900 ft. This unit has been classified a Class II formation for the potential

for occurrence of scientifically significant fossils. Scientifically significant fossils are occasionally found within this formation (Armstrong & Wolney, 1989). The potential for discovery of significant fossils on this location is considered to be moderate.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: If any such fossils are located here, construction activities could damage the fossils and the information that could have been gained from them would be lost. The significance of this impact would depend upon the significance of the fossil. This impact can be effectively mitigated by ceasing operations and notifying the Field Office Manager immediately upon discovery of a fossil during construction activities. An assessment of the significance would be made and a plan to retrieve the fossil or the information from the fossil is developed.

The proposed action could also constitute a beneficial impact to paleontological resources by increasing the chances for discovery of scientifically significant fossils.

Mitigative Measures: None

References:

Armstrong, Harley J. and Wolney, David G., 1989, Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis, Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, CO, prepared for Bur. Land Management, Vol. I of V.

Miller, A.E., 1977, Geology of Moffat County, Colorado, Colo. Geol. Surv. Map Series 3, 1:126,720.

Name of specialist and date: Marty O'Mara, 3/30/10

SOILS

Affected Environment: The proposed corral site is on well-drained, dry clays of 6-25 % slope that are suitable for the pasture and rangeland purposes that are proposed. These soils have a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet. The main hazard is the risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: Overall, the affected area is very small and soil integrity and stability would be minimally affected. Soil compaction and bare ground within the corral would increase. Impacts would be high intensity but for short duration during the occasional use. Any vegetation within the corral would have an opportunity to regrow following livestock use to provide protection from soil erosion and alleviate some compaction. The current productivity and diversity of upland vegetation onsite would also help to minimize the effect of this project.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: This alternative would have no further affect on soil community characteristics.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/8/10

UPLAND VEGETATION

Affected Environment: The project area is dominated by a sagebrush-grass plant community. Dominant plants present include Wyoming big sagebrush, green rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, snowberry, wild rose, serviceberry, wax currant, wild onion, yarrow, owl clover, hairy golden aster, curly cup gumweed, Kentucky bluegrass, western wheatgrass, prairie junegrass, and Japanese brome.

Overall, the plant community is healthy, productive and diverse providing wildlife habitat, livestock forage, and watershed protection. Grass density and abundance is good, though there is some hedging on the bitterbrush.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: This alternative would alter vegetation within the confines of the corral area. The composition of species may change as a result of the temporary concentration of livestock. It is likely that increaser species, such as the curly cup gumweed that is present, would comprise a larger part of the community. With the proposed intermittent use, the area within the corral would likely retain a majority of the plant cover to provide protection from soil erosion. The current productivity and diversity of the site would minimize the effect of this project. Overall, the affected area is very small and the upland vegetation would be minimally affected.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: This alternative would have no affect on the upland vegetation.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Christina Rhyne, 3/25/10

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC

Affected Environment: Not present

Environmental Consequences, both alternatives: None

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 4/12/10

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL

Affected Environment: Vegetation at the project site is comprised of mixed mountain shrubs and sagebrush. This community typically provides habitat for big game species as well as small mammals, reptiles and birds. The general area is important winter habitat for mule deer

and elk.

Environmental Consequences, Proposed Action: All wildlife species using the area would likely be displaced during construction activities. The surrounding habitat would be sufficient to support mule deer, elk and other terrestrial wildlife that are displaced during construction. Most animals would return to undisturbed areas after construction is complete and human activity has decreased. The project would disturb 0.021 acres of wildlife habitat. This disturbance would be minimal on a landscape level.

Fences and other structures have potential to result in mortality of big game species as elk and mule deer can become entangled in wires during crossing. Due to the design of the corral, big game entanglements would be unlikely. The wire in welded panels is very sturdy and cannot twist, thus reducing entanglement risks. Welded panels, along with the top rail, would also make the corral very visible to wildlife. Since the corral is so small, it would not pose a barrier to big game and most animals would go around the corral instead of trying to cross it.

Environmental Consequences, No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to wildlife species or their habitat.

Mitigative Measures: None

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus, 4/13/10

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Fluid Minerals	EMO 03/30/10		
Forest Management	CR 3/25/10		
Hydrology/Ground		See Ground Water Quality	
Hydrology/Surface		ELS 4/8/10	
Range Management		CR 3/25/10	
Realty Authorizations		LM 3/30/10	
Recreation/Travel Mgmt		GMR 3/29/10	
Socio-Economics		LM 3/30/10	
Solid Minerals		JAM 4/2/10	
Visual Resources		GMR 3/29/10	
Wild Horse & Burro Mgmt	CR 3/25/10		

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This allotment and surrounding areas have historically been grazed by both sheep and cattle. Maintained and unmaintained roads exist throughout the area. Oil and gas development is currently active in the area. The project is within a non-motorized easement area. The area is used regularly by local residents and ranchers and by the primary recreation users in the area, hunters. Wildlife populations in the area are high. The primary impacts from all of these activities are most immediately seen in the presence of roads, cultivation on private lands, and weed presence. The proposed action to construct the corral is minor, compatible with other uses, both historic and present, and would not add any new or detrimental impacts to those that are already present.

STANDARDS

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (animal) STANDARD: The project area provides productive habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The Proposed Action would have minimal impacts to wildlife habitat and would not preclude this standard from being met. This standard would also be met under the No Action Alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 4/13/10

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (plant) STANDARD: There are no federally listed threatened or endangered or BLM sensitive plant species within or in the vicinity of the proposed project. This standard does not apply.

Name of specialist and date: Hunter Seim 3/30/10

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITY (plant) STANDARD: This standard is currently being met. Species diversity is high and the plant composition is appropriate for site. Overall density and production of dominant species is appropriate. The plant community is providing resilience from human activities and is contributing to desired objectives. This standard would continue to be met for the allotment as a whole under the proposed action and no action alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Christina Rhyne, 3/25/10

SPECIAL STATUS, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (animal) STANDARD: The project area provides habitat for greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The Proposed Action would have minimal impacts to these species and would not preclude this standard from being met. This standard would also be met under the No Action Alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Desa Ausmus 4/13/10

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS STANDARD: There is a diverse age-class and composition of riparian-wetland plant species on site that exhibit high vigor and resiliency to streamflow events. The 1999 assessment was Functioning at Risk with an upward trend. No changes have been made in management since that time. The upward trend would be expected to continue. The proposed project would have no affect on the riparian system and would not affect meeting or not meeting this standard.

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/8/10

WATER QUALITY STANDARD: This standard is not currently being met due to suspected water quality problems identified by the State of Colorado regarding *E. coli* and iron (the source of which is unknown) that require monitoring and periodic evaluation. The proposed action would have no effect on any iron issues. The proposed action design/location and relative good health of vegetative communities in the project area would prevent the proposed project from contributing to any suspected *E. coli* water quality problems. This standard would also be met under the No Action Alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/8/10

UPLAND SOILS STANDARD: This standard is currently being met. A healthy grass component is protecting soils from movement, erosion, or compaction. Biological crusts are in place where expected and are not excessively fragmented. This standard would continue to be met under the proposed action and no action alternative.

Name of specialist and date: Emily Spencer, 4/8/10

PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED: Uintah and Ouray Tribal Council, Colorado Native American Commission, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office, Kelley Sewell.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment #1a, Location Map
Attachment #1b, Corral Design Plan

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:

DATE SIGNED:

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWER:

DATE SIGNED:

Finding of No Significant Impact

The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. With the implementation of the attached mitigation measures there is a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Little Snake Resource Area and adjacent land.

2. Public health and safety would not be adversely impacted. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.

3. There would be no adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, wetlands, floodplain, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.

5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.

6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other actions that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource related plans, policies or programs.

7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.

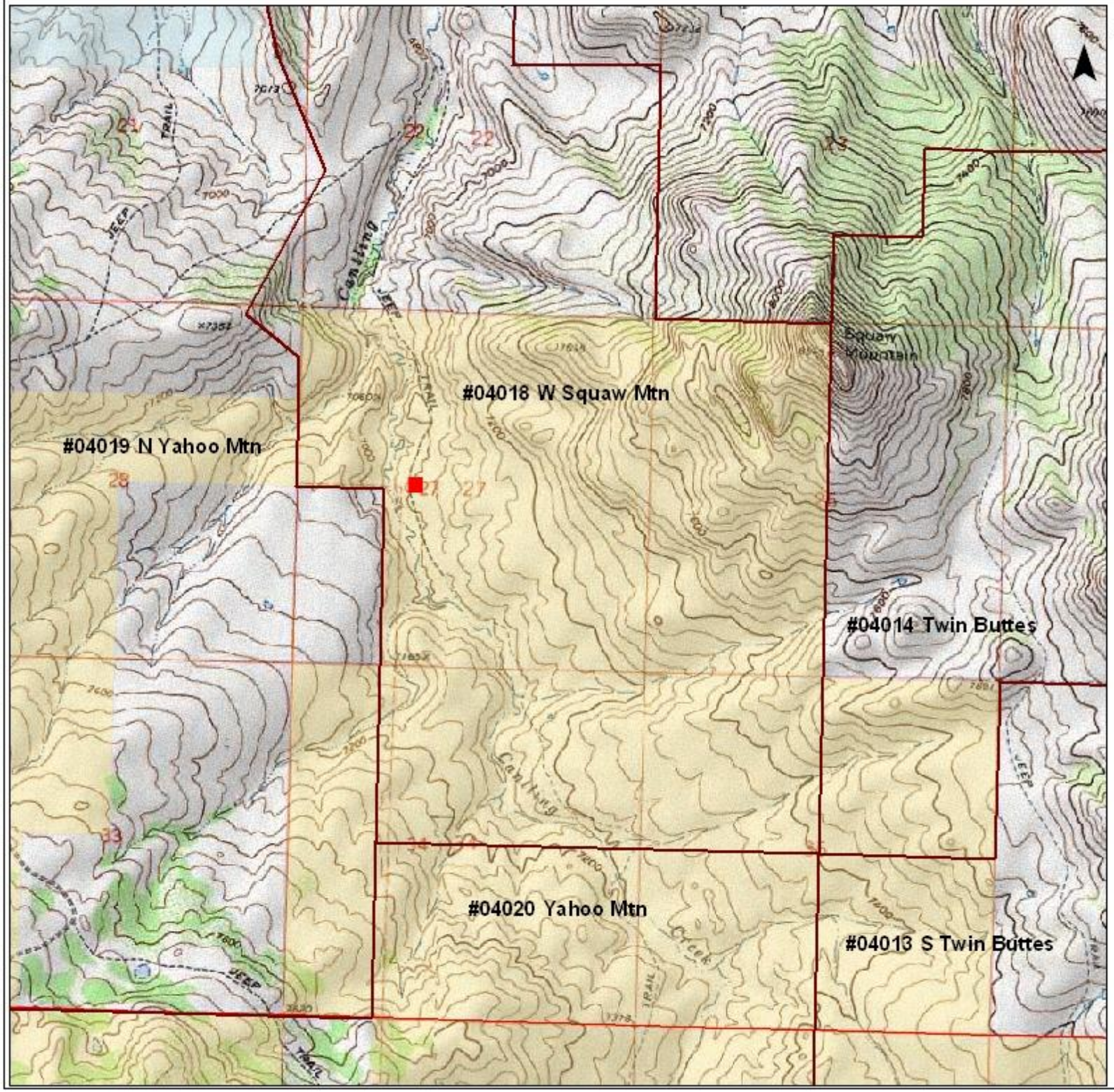
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice Policy.

9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act were identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.

10. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED



DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0069-EA
Attachment #1a

Stull Corral Location

T12N R88W

- Corral_location_point
- Allotment Boundaries
- Township/Range

Surface Management Status

- Private
- State Land Board
- US BLM

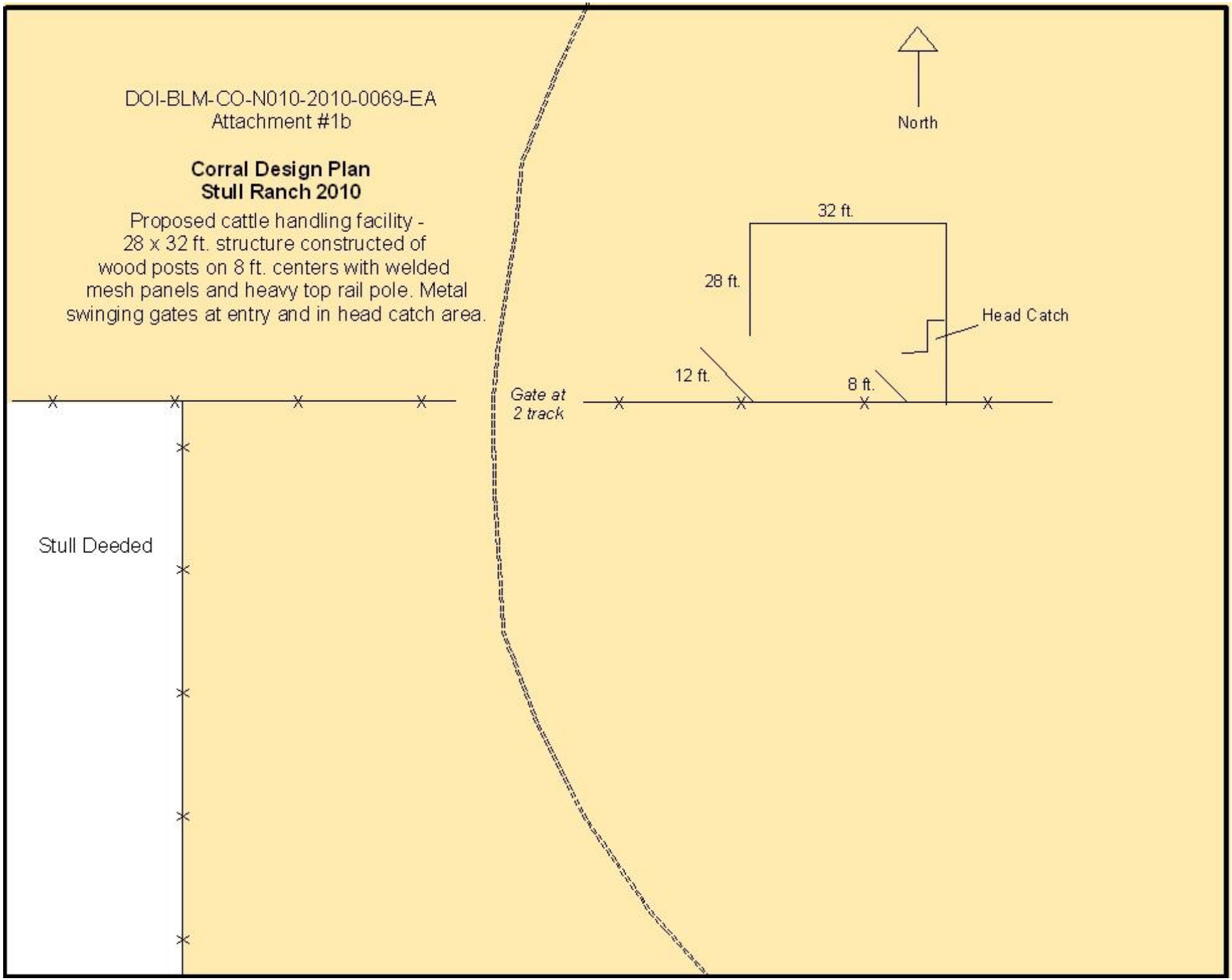
Attachment #1b shows design plan

0 600 1,200 2,400 3,600 Feet

1:24,000

Fly Creek
Tumble Mountain

CR
3/24/10


DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0069-EA
Attachment #1b
Corral Design Plan
Stull Ranch 2010
Proposed cattle handling facility -
28 x 32 ft. structure constructed of
wood posts on 8 ft. centers with welded
mesh panels and heavy top rail pole. Metal
swinging gates at entry and in head catch area.
North
32 ft.
28 ft.
Head Catch
12 ft.
8 ft.
Gate at
2 track
Stull Deeded